

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS PROJECT PROPOSALS 2014

Refuge/Wetland Management District: Bear Lake NWR and Minidoka NWR

Name of Project: Survey, map, and treat *Phragmites australis*

Project Description:

1. Invasive Species Treatment, Control, and/or Restoration We will use herbicide treatment to control Phragmites. With assistance from 2-4 volunteers, we will treat the 10 known acres of Phragmites on Bear Lake and 5 known acres on Minidoka. Volunteers and staff will survey and treat the 8017-acre Mud Lake Unit at Bear Lake and 65 miles of shoreline on Minidoka, focusing on areas known to provide suitable habitat for Phragmites.
2. Public Outreach and/or Environmental Education: Public outreach through the local media will generate interest in the project and bolster the existing volunteer base at both Refuges.
3. Survey, Inventory, and/or Post-treatment Monitoring: Volunteer(s), working with staff, will assist in photographing, mapping (handheld GPS), and measuring known and newly located Phragmites patches. Volunteer(s) will assist with treatment of Phragmites, documentation of weed decline, and recolonization of beneficial wetland plants. Biological staff will assess efficacy of actions based on data collected by volunteer(s), and determine if restoration measures should be instituted.

Friends Groups and other Volunteers: The Refuges are located in rural areas with a small volunteer base. Bear Lake currently has 3-5 volunteers assisting with bird counts and refuge maintenance. Bear Lake will recruit 1-2 existing or new volunteers to specifically assist in invasive species control. Minidoka currently uses 3-6 volunteers provided by the County Weed Boards on “spray days.” Minidoka will solicit the help of 1-2 County Weed volunteers expressing the desire to assist the Refuge outside of the “spray day” events. Volunteers are an important component in control efforts to assist the existing small Refuge staff (one at Minidoka; two at Bear Lake). Without the assistance of volunteers, management will not be able to cover as many acres for survey, treatment, and monitoring. As a new partner, the Friends of Camas NWR, who hope to extend their reach to the other refuges in the SEIDNWR Complex, will be consulted for input and interested volunteers.

Other Partners: Specific to Bear Lake NWR, the Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area and Bear Lake Watch are existing partners currently treating Phragmites on Bear Lake proper. Bear Lake is coordinating with these groups to maximize results. Minidoka NWR will continue to partner with the Minidoka and Cassia County Weed Boards that provide 3-6 volunteers on “spray days.”

Criteria for Project Success: Train 2-4 volunteers (limiting factors are: capacity of boat/airboat; and number of ATVs). Treat 15 acres of known occurrence. Survey 8017 acres on Bear Lake NWR and 65 miles of shoreline on Minidoka NWR; treat new occurrences. Assess treated acres. Control is achievable especially when coordinated with the efforts of the County Weed Boards and Bear Lake Watch.

Budget:

PPE for volunteers	
Life jackets	\$180
Chest waders	\$260
Steel-toed boots	\$300
Goggles, ear muffs, hard hats	\$140
Helmets	\$250
Waterproof & leather gloves	\$100
Herbicide (Ecomazapyr/Imazapyr 2SL; 4-6 pints/acre)	
80 pints treats 40 acres = twelve 2.5gal-bottles	\$2400
Backpack herbicide sprayers	\$260
Fuel	
Boat/Airboat	\$3500
ATVs	\$200
Trucks	\$100
Advertising insert – News-Examiner (BL Valley, Preston, Cokeville)	\$500
Training	In house
GRAND TOTAL	\$8190